

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on September 18, 2007. The Abstract and claims 1 and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, on page 8, lines 1-6; page 10, lines 2-18; and page 12, line 27 to page 13, line 10 of the specification. Support for amendments to claim 15 can be found, for example, on page 10, lines 9-18 and lines 34-36; and page 12, line 27 to page 13, line 10, of the specification.

The Abstract is objected to due to its length and certain “legal phraseology.” Applicants have amended the Abstract to address the objections raised in the Office Action.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cresson, U.S. Patent No. 6,301,796 (“Cresson”). Reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish over Cresson. Claim 1 recites a “system for checking the position and/or the dimensions of mechanical pieces, comprising a checking probe with ... a logic unit ... and a remote transceiver unit for wireless transmission and reception of signals, a base transceiver unit for the wireless transmission and reception of the signals to and from said remote transceiver unit.” Claim 1 further recites a “display device adapted for displaying, on the basis of signals received from the remote transceiver unit, information regarding said at least one operation parameter and an associated value, and a manually-operated control device, connected to the base transceiver unit and adapted for generating, upon an operator’s manual control, control signals and for transmitting said control signals by means of the base transceiver unit.”

According to claim 1, the logic unit of the checking probe is “adapted for selecting the value of said at least one operation parameter in response to the control signals received by means of the remote transceiver unit and to provide signals indicative of said at least one operation parameter and of the associated value.” Moreover, as recited in amended claim 1, “the logic unit is adapted to provide, according to a coded sequence and in response to the received control signals,

signals indicative of current selectable values of said at least one operation parameter, the display device displaying in sequence said current selectable values of said at least one operation parameter, said control signals being adapted to send to the logic unit either an updating control or a confirmation control to control the updating or the confirmation of the current selectable value displayed on the display device” (emphasis added).

Independent claim 15 has also been amended to further distinguish over Cresson. Claim 15 recites a “method for selecting a value of at least one operation parameter in a system for checking the position and/or the dimensions of mechanical pieces, the system comprising a checking probe with a logic unit ... and a remote transceiver unit for wireless transmission and reception of signals, a base transceiver unit for the wireless transmission and reception of signals to and from said remote transceiver unit, a display device and a manually-operated control device”

Amended claim 15 recites a method comprising “generating in the logic unit, and transmitting to the display device, according to a coded sequence, signals indicative of said at least one operation parameter and of an associated current selectable value, displaying in the display device, on the basis of said indicative signals, information regarding said at least one operation parameter and associated current selectable value.” Claim 15 further recites “generating, in the manually-operated control device, and transmitting from the base transceiver unit to the remote transceiver unit, control signals controlling the logic unit,” the “control signals being generated in response to a control manually provided by an operator on the basis of information regarding the current selectable values of said at least one operation parameter displayed in sequence on the display device, each of said control signals being adapted to send either an updating control or a confirmation control to control the logic unit to update or to confirm the current selectable value of said at least one operation parameter that is currently displayed” (emphasis added).

Cresson fails to teach or suggest all of limitations of independent claims 1 and 15. Cresson discloses a probe and an interface (located on a machine) both of which have microprocessors with a wireless two way communication link between them. When Cresson’s probe is brought into the range of the two way communication link, the probe transmits to the interface the status of its programmed functions (col. 3, line 61 to col. 4, line 3). A receiver on the

interface receives the probe information (col. 4, lines 4-7) and a microprocessor on the interface causes the probe program information to be displayed (col. 4, lines 8-12). According to Cresson, an operator may program the interface with a set of instructions by pressing buttons on the interface (col. 4, lines 15-27). Once the operator has set the required programmes into the memory of the microprocessor on the interface, the probe is brought back in front of the interface to within transmission range to receive from the interface a single signal containing all of the programming information (col. 4, line 60 to col. 5, line 5).

In other words, in Cresson the microprocessor of the probe transmits a single signal containing the status of all of the programmed functions of the probe to the microprocessor of the interface, which displays the status of the programmed functions all together. Cresson's interface is programmable by an operator with a new set of programming instructions, and only when the programming of the interface is completed, i.e., when all of the functions of the probe are set in the interface, a single signal with a new set of programming instructions is sent back to the microprocessor of the probe. It is to be noted that in Cresson a quite complex signal is sent from the interface to the probe, such signal being rather sensitive to environment interferences.

Contrary to Cresson, the system recited in amended claim 1 and the method recited in amended claim 15 enable to select in the logic unit (36) and display on the display device (22) – sequentially and individually – current selectable values of parameters of the checking probe (4), and to generate in the manually-operated control device (11) control signals to change the values following a sequence and control signals to select the desired value for each parameter. In particular, the logic unit, by means of the remote transceiver unit (8), transmits signals according to a sequence coded in the same logic unit. A current selectable value of the operation parameter being programmed is then displayed according to such sequence on the display device, and a control signal for controlling either the updating or the confirming of the displayed current selectable value is sent accordingly upon an operator's manual control (see, for example, page 8, lines 1-5, and page 12, line 27 to page 13, line 10, of the specification). The claimed invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments.

The aforementioned features are not taught or suggested in Cresson. To the contrary, Cresson's operation parameters and associated values are programmed in the interface and then transmitted all together as program instructions to the microprocessor of the probe (see, for example, col. 2, lines 32-38 and col. 5, lines 1-5).

The system and the method of the present invention provide specific advantages over Cresson. For example, a quite simple probe construction is provided, with no need for "microprocessors or other special hardware for the programming phase" (page 16, lines 21-24). Moreover, the invention allows "to utilize, for the signals transmitted to the probe 4, the same radio frequency channel utilized for the selective activation" of the probe (page 16, lines 2-7), and tolerating short interferences on the activation channel (page 16, lines 7-14).

For at least for the above reasons, amended independent claims 1 and 15 are allowable over Cresson. Claims 2-14 and claims 16-19 depend from claims 1 and 15, respectively, and contain every limitation of claims 1 and claim 15, respectively. Dependent claims 2-14 and 16-19 are allowable for at least the same reasons as for allowance their base claims, and also because the unique combinations recited in these dependent claims are neither taught nor suggested by the cited reference.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

Peter A. Veytsman

Registration No.: 45,920

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP

1825 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006-5403

(202) 420-2200

Attorneys for Applicant